

Committee to try to help those hit hardest by MVA

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maneuvering, Halton Council voted to defer market value assessment for one year to give the new citizen's committee a chance to come up with an alternative tax assessment system, acceptable to two-thirds of Halton Council. If that committee cannot find such a deal, the original regional MVA scheme would be implemented for the 1994 tax year.

Bonnette said the one-year reprieve is the best way to proceed with the tax reform issue.

"I'm not totally opposed to MVA. I'm opposed to seeing such dramatic increases," Bonnette said. "Acton is going to get hit hard with four out of five homeowners paying increased taxes.

This committee will hopefully look at ways to ease the impact. We should see some terms of reference for that committee today.

Maybe a whole new property tax system will come out of this

committee. At least now we have the time to find out."

The year delay will also give the committee time to work on a proposed 15 per cent cap on tax hikes in the first year and its plans to totally phase-in region-wide MVA in three years.

Under MVA homes in Halton of similar value will be taxed at similar rates. On the whole that means savings for Burlington and Milton and increased taxes in Halton Hills.

In Acton, 86 per cent of homeowners would have faced tax increases. While under the proposed MVA plan and overall taxes in the commercial and industrial sectors would have decreased, 49 per cent in those categories would have faced tax increases.

Of the total tax bill paid by the average Regional resident each year, 15 to 18 per cent is for Regional purposes and that is the amount affected by MVA.

Acton resident Mac Sprowl, who

sat through the hours of debate, said Sunday that the one-year delay is a necessary reprieve.

"I don't think the base year for reassessment should be 1988 when real estate was highly inflated. I think they should look at using 1992 or maybe 1987 for the base year," said Sprowl.

"I'm not sure that market value assessment is the way to fair and equitable taxes. I know that the poll tax didn't work in Britain but maybe it would be fairer. Some people say there should be a flat 20 per cent tax on your income. I don't know but I think there must be a better system than MVA."

In addition to forming the citizens committee Halton Chairman Peter Pomeroy and the mayors of Halton's four municipalities will meet with Ministry Of Revenue officials to try to help those homeowners who will get hit hardest under whatever MVA system Halton approves next year.

United Way still needs your help

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"The residential campaigns in Acton and Georgetown got off to late starts and that hurt us. The Acton Lions Club jumped into the breach to run the door-to-door campaign but we have only collected 62 per cent of our \$32,000 goal. That is partly due to the recession and partly because we didn't have enough volunteers to canvass each home," Malcolmson said.

"Some people who were canvassers last year didn't take routes this year and I can understand that people don't want the job forever. We had over 300 canvassers last year and just 200 this year, so we need to work on volunteer recruitment," Malcolmson said.

"In early November we were optimistic we would reach our in-

tended goal of \$200,000. Today we are not optimistic. I would say we are \$20,000 short, which is about \$3 per household," Malcolmson said.

The United Way will go after that money with a follow-up campaign that will include letters appealing for donations to local industries and businesses and service clubs and some special events. It's not too late for people to write out a cheque and send it to us today."

Malcolmson said there is a possibility that some allocations might have to be cut back to the United Way's 23-member agencies if they don't reach the goal.

"I realize how hard it is out there right now. People are getting hit from every angle and there is high

unemployment in this area. People are just hanging on to every nickel and dime they have got and that hurt us," Malcolmson said. "Now is the time for people to pitch in and help."

Looking back at the campaign Malcolmson said they will need to work on community education next year, including the provision for people to have their payroll deductions returned to Halton Hills.

"We will have to get key people into place much sooner but that's a decision the board will have to make. Maybe they don't want me as general campaign chairman again. If I am asked I will strongly consider doing it again."

The final tally on this year's campaign should be known early next year.



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NEWS SHORTS

Fatal crash on Highway 7

Milton OPP continue to investigate a fatal two-car crash Saturday that claimed the life of 53-year-old Marilyn Briggs of Mowbray Place, Acton.

Police report Briggs, alone in her car, was eastbound on Highway 7, west of Regional Road 43 Saturday morning, when her car crossed into the westbound lanes and struck a car driven by 39-year-old Sandra Hyslop of Erin.

Hyslop and her 8-year-old son Adam were taken to Georgetown Hospital for observation and released. Hyslop's 11-year-old daughter was taken to Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto for observation.

Tires taken

Thieves made off with two tires, worth \$350, from a car parked at Acton Auto Tech on Agnes Street overnight Friday. The thieves took the front and rear tires from the passenger side of a car brought in for repairs by a Milton woman. Police have no suspects or witnesses.

Acton vehicle hit and run

A citizen who witnessed a vehicle hit and run on Church Street last Wednesday could not give police a description of the driver of the suspect car. The witness told police a dark-coloured car ran into a car parked on the street and kept going. About \$30 damage was done to the driver's side door.

You Rang?

An Acton woman faces charges of making harrasing phone calls after a jilted lover refused to stop calling her former mate.

Police were called to a Tidey Avenue home last Wednesday when a boarder at the house complained he was getting obscene phone calls from a woman he had recently left. While police were at the home the woman repeatedly called and screamed curses and was warned she would be charged if she didn't stop. The calls continued. Charged is 30-year-old Linda Denise Hume of Highway 7, Acton.

Acton tool heist

Police have no witnesses or suspects in the theft of \$950 worth of tools and equipment from a warehouse at 100 Elgin Street. A man who stores three vehicles at the warehouse discovered the theft last Tuesday. There was no sign of forced entry. A box of tools, a chain and intake valve were stolen.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"There is no political will on Council to rebuild in Prospect Park. I don't think I'm saying anything that people don't already know."

Councillor Rick Bonnette on the Acton Arena site

DID YOU KNOW?

Our first postmaster suggested the name "Acton" to replace the original name of "Adamsville" some 150 years ago.

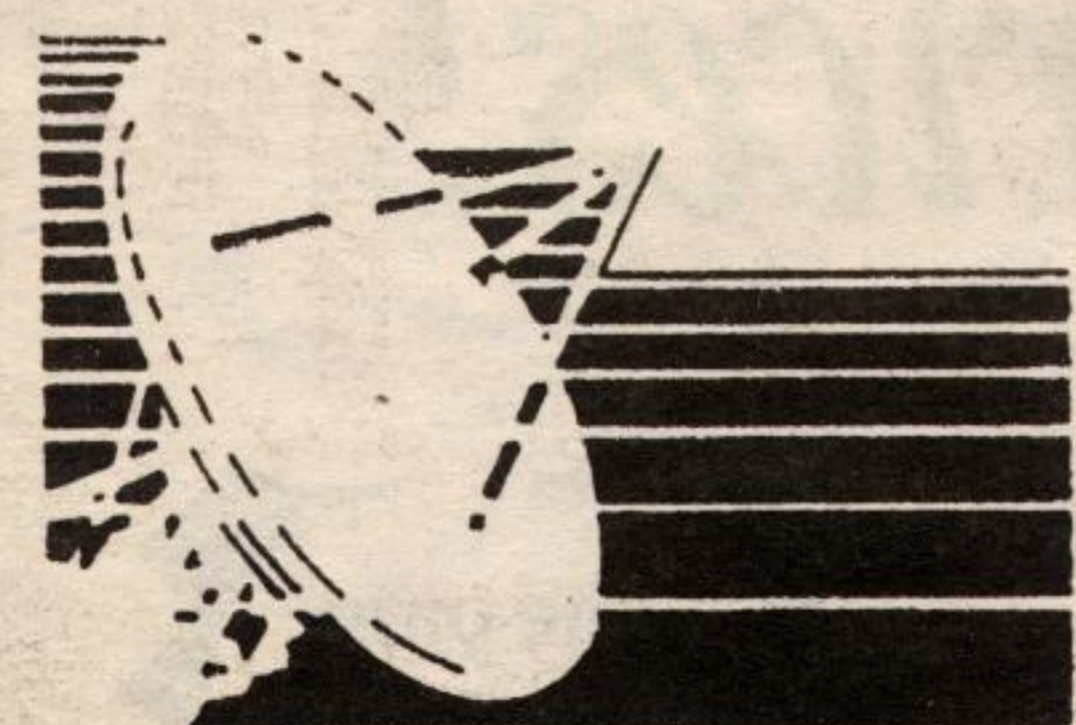
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